



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from Citygate Network

Useful news and information for members

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Citygate Network Board Meeting This Week

As you read this, our organization's board members are meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, for three days—Monday through Wednesday—of deliberation about current and future matters of importance. The board will be looking at some of the new opportunities that are coming our way and deciding if, how, and when to engage. The board will also be breaking for a couple of hours to visit the New Orleans Mission, to see and hear about some of the recent facility and program changes and learn more about how the gospel is giving hope to downtrodden people in the Big Easy. Please be in prayer for the Citygate Network board meetings and for the New Orleans Mission through the craziness (and opportunities) of Mardi Gras next week.

HUGE NEWS: Agreement Inked with Adult and Teen Challenge USA

With a strong belief in the importance and power of collaboration, Citygate Network and Adult and Teen Challenge USA (ATC USA)—formerly known as Teen Challenge—have begun a relationship that will welcome ATC USA local centers into Citygate Network membership and allow for some valuable cross pollination of ideas and sharing of resources. This is NOT a merger, just a way to formally connect under the Citygate Network umbrella for more effectiveness for the cause of Christ. Many of our 70 member benefits will now be available to ATC USA local centers all over America, plus our members can now access ATC USA's excellent addiction prevention and addiction recovery curriculum at a discount, as well as their new Intimacy with Purpose study series.

Citygate Network President John Ashmen said, "Adult and Teen Challenge and Citygate Network have been on parallel paths for decades, both working with those most in need of life transformation. We've now increased the size of the support network for both organizations," continued Ashmen, "and soon we will be able to share best practices and witness the emergence of an informed common assessment of the issues unfolding in society and showing up on our streets. This is what real collaboration looks like." ATC USA local centers line up with Citygate Network's statement of faith and code of ethics,

as well as with Citygate Network's Statement on Biblical Sexuality. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting development.

Registrations for DC Forum Filling Up Fast!

Sign-ups for this year's government relations event in Washington have been brisk. As of today, we only have twelve openings left before we exceed the capacity of our meeting room. If you're thinking about attending, act ASAP! [Check out the program and register right online.](#)

The 2020 Census and You

Citygate Network is working with the U.S. Department of Commerce to help faith-based hospitality ministries get accurate counts within the homeless community for the 2020 Census count. The U.S. Census Bureau has provided [materials about the upcoming effort](#) that you can share with your community, listing a variety of resources that explain how you can participate. Remember, the more accurate the count, the more pertinent and valuable the information available for strategy, planning, and fund allocation. The Census Bureau will host a 2020 Census Interfaith Partner Summit at the Washington Cathedral, tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. Herb Smith, president of The Los Angeles Mission (Los Angeles, California) will speak at that event on behalf of Citygate Network.

You Could Win a Stetson Hat!

We can't wait to see you in San Antonio for the Citygate Network Annual Conference and Exposition! It's May 27 – 30 at the Grand Hyatt. If you haven't yet gotten around to registering, here's a reason to do so right away: Everyone signed up by our March 16 deadline will not only receive the best rate—it goes up the next day—but you will be entered into a drawing to win a Stetson cowboy hat! And when you get to Texas, we'll have it waiting for the winner. So, make sure you [go online today and secure not only your spot in San Antonio...](#)and get entered into the drawing to strut your stuff in Western style!

Here's What They Had to Say...

In this and forthcoming issues of *Street Smart*, we'll be sharing comments from individuals who attended last year's Annual Conference and Exposition in Palm Springs.

Hopefully the quotes (taken directly from our post-conference evaluations) will inspire you as you consider attending this year's conference May 27 – 30 in San Antonio.

"The general sessions paved the way for the Holy Spirit to work within my heart. I was able to glean at least one new idea or piece of information in every seminar I attended. I enjoyed seeing people so dedicated to serving God through serving others and felt honored to be a part of the group."

"This is a crucial time in our society and for mission work. Citygate Network is and will be an integral part of us transitioning and changing in ways which will glorify God."

Coronavirus Threat Update

We continue to monitor the ongoing outbreak of the respiratory illness known as novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Forty-two states and territories report persons under investigation (PUI) for the illness, with 7 states reporting 15 people positive for COVID-19. The situation changes daily, but the President's Coronavirus Task Force and the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) are following the international epidemic and providing daily updates and information. Strategies have been provided to aid in combatting the spread of the disease. The [CDC has prepared a helpful section on their website](#) offering suggestions for guests coming through your doors each day. Risk assessment is critical to caring for the current and future populations within our missions and ministries.

Looking Down the Street

- **Union Rescue Mission** (Los Angeles, California) plans a Groundbreaking Celebration for the new Angeles House on February 28, 2020. The south L.A. satellite location is designed as a bridge family housing facility that will provide 86 families with 370 beds available for moms, dads, and their children.
- **Cherry Street Mission Ministries** (Toledo, Ohio) welcomes Wes Modder to the position of CEO. Dr. Modder is a military veteran where he served as a Navy chaplain for many years.
- **Phoenix Rescue Mission** (Phoenix, Arizona) has also named a new CEO, Ken Brissa. Ken comes to the mission from a successful career with the March of Dimes organization.
- **Jimmie Hale Mission** (Birmingham, Alabama) joins the list of missions welcoming a new CEO, introducing Michael Coleman in late 2019. His

background includes founding a non-profit, serving in the U.S. Army, and pastoring a church.

- The **New Orleans Mission** (New Orleans, Louisiana) has been selected as a charity partner for the 2020 Raising the Roof for Charity Home. The Northside Home Builders Association members, and the community of New Orleans donate time and skills to build a house that is then raffled off. Proceeds from the \$100 raffle tickets benefit three selected local charities. As a result of the proceeds received last year, the mission was able to build out the second phase of their women's recovery facility.
- In January **St. Matthew's House** (Naples, Florida), held a gala at the Artis-Naples museum, art gallery, and entertainment complex. The program included Citygate Network member, **Brunswick Christian Recovery Center** (Ash, North Carolina) founder and chair, Rocky Atkinson, sharing about his artist son Patrick's death from an overdose, and a gallery showing of his late son's paintings, which are also featured in the book Rocky published, *The Road to Recovery, Searching for Salvation*.
- Former **Klamath Falls Gospel Mission** (Klamath Falls, Oregon), CEO Kent Berry has been asked to return and fill in as interim director while the board seeks a new CEO.
- Roxella "Rocky" Lyons has stepped down as the Executive Director of **Butte Rescue Mission** (Butte, Montana). The board has begun a search for her replacement.

TELL US: Do you have news to share with other network members? Send a blurb to [Alice Gifford](#). Include as many details as possible. We'll handle the editing.



Denver Nonprofit Turns Hotel into Mini-Apartments for the Homeless

According to an article by The Mind Unleashed, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) purchased a prominently located Quality Inn and Suites and [renovated it into 139 studio apartments for unhoused people](#) around the city. They will have access to vouchers, provided by the state and city, to ensure they will pay no more than 30 percent of their income for rent. The new Fusion Suites come with a bathroom,

kitchenette, bed, dresser, desk, chair, mini-fridge, TV, microwave, and pantry. This is a trend that is that's occurring from coast to coast these days.

Consider: Keep an eye open for a "going out of business" motel in your area.

Trump Budget Cuts Safety Net Programs

The budget unveiled by the U.S. President a week ago yesterday shows a \$4.4 trillion slash in spending, including deep cuts to food programs. If approved as presented, nearly 700,000 people across the country will be dropped from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility. The administration's position is that with record low unemployment and steady economic growth, there is no time like the present to nudge people off federal assistance. The budget would also affect federal disability benefits through more stringent work and eligibility requirements. Strong pushback comes from people citing statistics showing that many folks who can work are unable to make a living wage because of low skills or because they are providing total care for a family member. The budget also cuts foreign aid by 21 percent. International Christian aid programs have been quick to point out how such cuts will leave millions in third-world countries without life-saving assistance. The budget, as it stands has little chance of passage in the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives.

Consider: If cuts to SNAP do materialize at some level, you will likely have an opportunity to help those with food insecurity in your community, either through feeding or food box programs. Appoint someone at your organization to keep an eye on this issue and make suggestions for service when the time is right.

Calgary Group Wants Pet Friendly Homeless Shelter Option

The Canadian Press published an article about an entrepreneur in Calgary, British Columbia, actively working to raise funds to open a facility in the city where those who find themselves [homeless can stay without having to give up their pets](#). The managing director of The Mustard Seed street ministry, which operates a 370-bed homeless shelter in Calgary says he wants to collaborate to make that happen because so many of the city's homeless have mental-health issues or have fallen on hard times, and rely on their pets for emotional support. Reportedly, several other Canadian cities offer pet-friendly shelters, including Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal.



Survey Indicates that Hiring Will Target Millennials and Gen Z

A recent LinkedIn survey showed 72 percent of [HR professionals plan to focus on recruiting millennials](#) (24-39 year-olds) in the next five years, followed by 57 percent who are targeting Gen Z (under 24), and 41 percent looking at Gen X (40-54 year-olds), but only 13 percent expressed an interest in hiring baby boomers (55-75 year-olds). Millennials and Gen Z make up approximately half of the world's current population, while boomers are reaching retirement ages, and dying.

Super Bowl Leftovers Rescued for a Good Cause

ESPN reported that more than 30,000 pounds of [food leftover after the Super Bowl](#) was rescued and donated to five shelters and nonprofits in the Miami area to turn into meals for 20,000 individuals experiencing food insecurity and/or homelessness. Volunteers collected the food from caterers, concession stands, and suites, and worked in shifts to get the food out of the stadium and into trucks for delivery. It was the first major food recovery effort after a Super Bowl and was coordinated by Food Rescue US.

Sex Trafficking Affects Males Too

Around the world, men and boys comprise only a tiny percentage of sex trafficking victims (2 percent), but according to an International Labor Organization report, that number could be significantly higher in the U.S. When the Department of Justice studied sexual exploitation of children in New York City a decade ago, they found that 53.5 percent of victims were male. While the precise number of men and boys sold for sex is not currently known, we do know that the number of organizations equipped to offer them help is extremely low. Nationwide, [not one facility exclusively serves adult male victims of sex trafficking](#), and only four in 25 shelters even offer services for males in that category. That will be changing when Bob's House of Hope opens in Texas. Still in planning stages, the center will serve young men ages 17 to 24, offering housing for 10 clients on site, with possible expansion to accommodate as many as 30.



[AOH Counselor- Client Manager](#), Union Gospel Mission, Spokane, WA

[Business Director](#), Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, Indio, CA

[Camp Bennett Maintenance Manager](#), Central Union Mission

[Camp Director](#), Central Union Mission

[Care Support Specialist](#), Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

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[Development Director](#), Home of Grace, Vancleave, MS

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[Vice President of Ministries](#), Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, CA

[Welcome Center Supervisor](#), Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA



Heart Resolve

We're six weeks into the new year already—how have you done with your New Year's resolutions? You made them with every good intention of following through to become a better, stronger, faster, or more ~~fill-in-the-blank~~, person in 2020—but that resolve doesn't always last beyond the first month.

The dictionary defines resolution as a firm determination. Daniel 1:8 tells us that Daniel resolved in his heart not to eat the rich foods the king ordered for his "cream of the crop" captives. Isn't that what we intend at New Years? We resolve in our hearts to

do, or not do something, in the year ahead because we want to make a change that will result in improvement?

Daniel drew a line and refused to eat and drink the rich stuff, not because he wanted to jump on the latest weight loss fad, but because he wanted to stand up and make a statement about something important to him. That's a resolution with heart behind it—the kind that has a chance to stick, because it involves passion.

Has God nudged your heart to take a stand or make a statement about something this year? Keep your heart engaged so your resolve remains strong; God honors obedience.

James 1:25 (NIV)

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

To contribute: If you would like to write a devotional thought for StreetLight, please make it about 200 words, include at least one Bible verse or passage, and submit via [email](#).

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